NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Vol. XXIII, No. 5 Bethesda, Maryland 20014 May 1968

NLM - Macy Conference on History of Drug Control

On May 16-17, the Library held its second conference on the history of medicine sponsored jointly with the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. The topic of the conference was "The History of Drug Control." Various speakers considered European backgrounds and parallels, development of scientific methods of evaluating drug efficacy, the role of the drug industry, the pharmaceutical profession, and the American Medical Association, as well as the development of controls by the Federal government under the Food and Drug Act of 1906 and subsequent legislation. The discussions and questions from the audience and the free interchange among participants were as stimulating as the formal paper.

Among the speakers were two from Europe, Dr. Erwin H. Ackerknecht, Professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Zurich, and Dr. T. D. Whittet, Chief Pharmacist of the British Ministry of Health, London. Other participants were: Alex Berman, University of Texas; Ernst W. Stieb, University of Toronto; Henry K. Beecher, Harvard; David L. Cowen, Rutgers; Glenn Sonnedecker, University of Wisconsin; James G. Burrow, Indiana State University; Harry F. Dowling, University of Illinois; James Harvey Young, Emory; David F. Cavers, Harvard; and Louis Lasagna, Johns Hopkins. The discussants included Dr. William B. Bean, a member of NLM's Board of Regents, as well as representatives of the American Medical Association, the Food and Drug Administration, and the drug industry. Several of the speakers carried out research for their papers with the aid of grants from NLM's Extramural Program.

The conference was organized and chaired by Dr. John B. Blake, Chief of NLM's History of Medicine Division, who will also edit the proceedings for publication.

NLM Director To Be Honored

Martin M. Cummings, M.D. will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree on June 2, 1968, from his alma mater, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Bucknell is one of the few institutions where both the entire faculty and the Board of Trustees are involved in deciding on such honorary awards. Dr. Cummings is being honored for his "contributions in medical research and in the leadership of complex health protection endeavors, his services in universities and in government, and his pioneer work in the technology of distributing medical research knowledge."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Gerald N. Kurtz, Chief, Office of Information and Publications

Ann Lindsay Editor (Phone 301-496-1030)
Daniel Carangi Graphics Editor

Published monthly by the Public Information Office, National Library of Medicine, Public Health Service, for health science libraries, the health professions, and news media.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, January 18, 1963.

8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

NIH Research Chief Joins NLM

Dr. G. Burroughs Mider has been appointed Assistant to the Director for Medical Program Development and Evaluation. He will provide continuing professional technical and medical evaluation of the program responsibilities of the Library.

Dr. Mider has served at the National Institutes of Health since 1952. Most recently, he was Director of Laboratories and Clinics, responsible for all intramural research for the NIH. Previous to this, he was Associate Director in Charge of Research for the National Cancer Institute. He received the DHEW Distinguished Service Award in 1960. Prior to 1952, Dr. Mider was Professor of Cancer Research, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Mider received an A.B. degree from Cornell University and an M.D. degree from Cornell Medical College.

Theme Announced for International Congress

"World Progress in Medical Librarianship" is the theme of the Third International Congress of Medical Librarianship, May 5-9, 1969, in Amsterdam.

Congress meetings will be concerned with: the contribution of medical libraries towards an increase of biomedical knowledge; the functions of medical libraries in the transmission of biomedical knowledge; principles of the organization of medical knowledge -- indexing and classification; modern information systems in medicine; technical developments in the medical library field; and problems of medical information systems and centers in developing countries. There will be symposia and postgraduate courses in medical librarianship, including several offered by the Medical Library Association's Committee on Continuing Education.

Patron of the Congress is H.R.H. The Prince of the Netherlands. Honorary Presidents are Mr. Scott Adams, NLM Deputy Director and 1967/68 President of the Medical Library Association, and Dr. Folke Ström, Head, Medicinska Sektionen, Universitetsbiblioteket, Göteborgs Universitet, Göteborg, Sweden.

(Continued on Page 4)

New MEDLARS Training Programs Under Way

During the week of May 6-10, Mr. F. Wilfrid Lancaster (right), Deputy Chief, Bibliographic Services Division, presented the first of a series of five-session seminars on information retrieval systems. Attending the three-hour meetings were members of the current MEDLARS Indexing and Search Class *(NLM News*, February 1968), and a number of auditors. After a brief survey of information retrieval concepts and recent developments in both theory and practice, Mr. Lancaster discussed how such systems may be evaluated and their operating data applied to improving and expediting their services and products. (Mr. Lancaster recently completed an innovative study of the MEDLARS demand search operation *(NLM News*, October 1966) the final report of which is in press.)

MEDLARS searchers from stations in this country and abroad gathered at the Library May 13-15 for the latest Search Workshop, one in a program of continuing education for both NLM staff members and outside MEDLARS personnel. Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Library Operations, informed the group of current changes in Library programs and organization, and announced that Mrs. Lillian Washington has assumed the responsibilities for MEDLARS liaison functions. The exchange of precise factual information about operating problems and the discussions of indexing and search formulation problems serve to improve understanding and maintain close, cordial relations among people whose problems may be identical though they are as far apart as Los Angeles and Stockholm.

A highlight of the Workshop was the report by Dr. Carl-Eric Elwin (left), of Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. Dr. Elwin discussed Karolinska's MEDLARS operation, its organization and expanding services to the Swedish biomedical community. Of special interest was his account of their Drug and Toxicology Information Section, inaugurated in January 1968 to furnish specialized data, on subscription, to the Scandinavian scientists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and regulatory agencies.

A second innovation in the MEDLARS training series --a three-day MEDLARS search appreciation course --will be offered May 20-22, from 9 to 5, by Mr. William H. Caldwell, Drug Literature Program, whose experience in MEDLARS includes indexing, searching, and concern with various special bibliographies. This new course is designed for the benefit of those who are not primarily concerned with searching, but whose involvement with the MEDLARS activities, as indexers, administrators, etc., requires a less detailed understanding of the search operation.

(International Congress, continued from Page 2)

Mrs. Jacqueline W. Felter, incoming MLA President, will represent the U.S. on the International Liaison Committee. Questions concerning transportation should be addressed to her at the Medical Library Center of New York, 5 East 102nd Street, New York, New York 10029. Registration forms may be obtained from the Office of the Secretary-General, III International Congress of Medical Librarianship, Herengracht 119, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

OCES Head Named

Mr. Alfred Asch has been appointed Chief of the Office of Computer and Engineering Services (OCES). Mr. Asch recently retired from the Air Force with the rank of Colonel. Most recently, he served as Chief of Data Services Division, Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan Air Force Base. Earlier, Mr. Asch planned, organized, and activated an ADP Systems Center for the Defense Intelligence Agency. He received the Legion of Merit for his service with DIA. Mr. Asch holds a B.A. degree from Central Michigan College of Education and an M.L. degree in industrial management from the University of Pittsburgh.

TIP Planning Chief Is Appointed

Mr. Daniel A. Mills has joined the Toxicology Information Program as Chief, Products and Services Planning and Development. Mr. Mills most recently served on the staff of the Chemstrand Research Center in Durham, North Carolina, as Section Head, Technical Information. He earned a B.Sc. from McGill University, Toronto, Canada, and an A.S.A. from Bentley College of Accounting and Finance, Boston.

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
8600 ROCKVILLE PIKE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEW